

Abstract:

The present invention provides improved conditionally replicating vectors that have improved safety against the generation of replication competent vectors or virus. Also disclosed are methods of making, propagating and selectively packaging, modifying, and using such vectors. Included are improved helper constructs, host cells, for use with the improved vectors as well as pharmaceutical compositions and host cells comprising the vectors, the use of vector containing host cells to screen drugs, and methods of using the vectors to determine gene function. The methods also include the prophylactic and therapeutic treatment of disease, especially viral infection, and HIV infection in particular.